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Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA EGG PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

HARRISBURG --- Egg production in **Pennsylvania** during February 2000 totaled 489 million eggs, an increase of 3 percent from the 476 million produced in 1999, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). The total number of layers averaged 23.3 million during February, compared with 22.8 million one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,103 eggs during the month, compared with 2,089 eggs in February 1999.

Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2000 totaled 4.61 million, down 18 percent from the 5.59 million hatched the previous February. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 12.00 million during February 2000, up 3 percent from the 11.62 million hatched the same month last year.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 6.66 billion eggs during February 2000, up 6 percent from a year ago. The total number of layers during February averaged 330 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,019 eggs, compared with 1,946 in February 1999.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during February totaled 35.5 million, down slightly from February 1999. Broiler-type hatch totaled 701 million, 6 percent more than the previous February. There were 24.1 million turkey poults placed in the United States during February 2000, up 2 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.